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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SANAA 000579

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA, NEA/ARP, NEA/EX, S/CT, CA, DS/DSS,
DS/IP/NEA, DS/DSS/ITA, DS/ICI/PII, CENTCOM FOR POLAD

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TAGS: [ASEC](#) [AMGT](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [YM](#) [EAC](#) [COUNTER](#) [TERRORISM](#)

SUBJECT: TFIZ01: SANAA EAC MARCH 23

REF: SANAA 576

Classified By: Ambassador Edmund J. Hull, for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

1. (S/NF) The Ambassador convened an Emergency Action Committee (EAC) March 23 to discuss current threat information, enhanced security measures and Embassy security posture. EAC decided to move from StandFast to MoveSafe effective 3/23 at the close of business. Key offices and personnel represented at the meeting included: AMB, DCM, POL/ECON, CONS, ADMIN, PD, RSO, DATT, ORCA, OMC, SOC YEMEN, FPD and RMO. End Summary.

Current Threat Information

2. (S/NF) ORCA reported no new threat information. ORCA and RSO reported that the Political Security Organization (PSO) and Ministry of Interior had no indications of any upcoming planned demonstrations. ORCA noted that the PSO continues to make arrests in relation to the 3/21 demonstration that turned violent, including a ROYG move to ask the Shura Council and Council of Deputies (the upper and lower houses of parliament) for a waiver of immunity for two of its members, both Nasserite party members involved in organizing and inciting the unauthorized demonstration. DATT briefed on developments with the Iraq war.

3. (C) EAC discussed what Embassy personnel are hearing about popular opinion. PD reported anecdotal information from contacts that Yemeni "street" opinion is rising in anger.

Increased Security Measures

4. (S/NF) RSO briefed EAC on increased security measures. Embassy stood down the 24/7 watchstanders. The location where cars are swept outside the compound was changed to be farther away from the street. Embassy employees other than cleared Americans will no longer be allowed to park vehicles inside the compound. ROYG security enhancements and responses include:

-- providing additional personnel and equipment to guard the Embassy, residences and other Amcit locations such as the Sheraton Hotel.

-- ensuring that Iraqi agents are under 24-hour surveillance.

-- working with the Embassy to compile a list of expat Americans and their contact information to provide extra security.

--attempting to manage public opinion through statements and the media to avoid violent reaction.

Embassy Change to MoveSafe 3/23 COB

5. (S) EAC decided to alter Embassy's security posture from StandFast to MoveSafe effective COB 3/23. MoveSafe entails curtailed operations, limited movement from residence to Embassy and to essential meetings and travel exclusively in armored vehicles. Despite the end of StandFast, the Embassy will not/not be open to provide visa/consular services to the public. Armored vehicle shuttle services began after EAC to ensure a well-staggered departure from the Embassy. FSNs will return to work on 3/24 as normal.

No Request for Authorized Departure

6. (S) EAC discussed whether a request should be made to move to authorized departure status and deferred making a recommendation pending developments. The issue remains open and under active review, and will be discussed further in connection with tripwires (particularly the possibility of further violent demonstrations in coming days).

